TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

12/5/88

Office of Information
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 28, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 19 totaled an estimated 20.0 billion ton-miles, up 1.8 percent from the 19.6 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 46 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 887.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended November 19 totaled 451,818, up 1.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and up 1.5 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 4.8 percent in the West but down 0.7 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Motor vehicles and equipment loadings increased by 2,367 cars (11.4 percent), and chemicals and allied products were up 2,289 cars (8.6 percent). Grain decreased by 1,823 cars (6.0 percent). Fifteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended November 12 totaled 123,620 trailers and/or containers, up 9.0 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 45 weeks of the year was 5,030,807 trailers and/or containers, up 5.9 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/19/88:

	Loadings in Week ended November 12, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,738	D	1,823	6.0	I	1,699	6.3
Other farm products	4,332	I	752	21.0	I	566	15.0
Metallic ores	20,897	I	2,007	10.6	D	206	10.0
Coal	133,077	D	1,584	1.2	I	1,814	1.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,500	I	2,005	12.9	I	188	1.1
Nonmetallic minerals	9,999	D	471	4.5	I	111	1.1
Grain mill products	10,829	D	280	2.5	I	35	0.3
Food and kindred products	11,333	D	624	5.2	I	10	0.08
Primary forest products	10,325	D	460	4.3	I	486	4.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,247	D	753	9.4	I	103	1.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,458	D	178	1.5	I	295	2.6
Chemicals and allied products	29,010	I	2,289	8.6	I	602	2.1
Petroleum products	5,250	I	445	9.3	I	108	2.1
Stone, clay and glass products	10,846	I	392	3.7	D	337	3.0
Coke	5,478	D	67	1.2	D	221	3.9
Metals and products	9,878	D	351	3.4	D	57	0.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,220	I	2,367	11.4	D	942	3.9
Waste and scrap materials	9,908	D	473	4.6	I	243	2.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,305	D	96	4.0	I	14	0.6
All other carloads	90,188	I	5,209	6.1	I	1,954	2.2
Total Cars Loaded	451,818	I	8,306	1.9	I	6,465	1.5
Corresponding week of 1987	443,512						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (46 weeks)	19,700,006	18,870,422	I 4.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
45 weeks ended November 12	867.5	817.1	I 6.2
Week ended November 19	20.0	19.6	I 1.8
46 Weeks cumulative	887.4	836.7	I 6.1

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